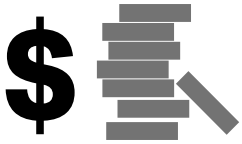
THE VALUE OF AVIATION ETHIOPIA

The economic impact of aviation in Ethiopia

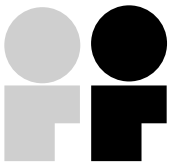
The aviation sector and its quantifiable economic effects made up 0.8% of Ethiopia's GDP and 0.6% of the country's employment in 2025. This covers the sector itself, its supply chain, employee spending, and international air transport-enabled tourism to Ethiopia.

GDP and employment created by aviation in Ethiopia in 2025



948.3
USD million

0.8%
of GDP



363.1
thousand jobs

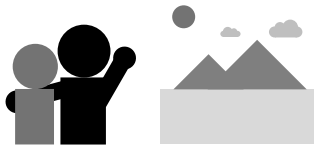
0.6%
of employment

Included economic impacts:
***Direct** – within aviation sector, **Indirect** – aviation supply chain,*
Induced** – employee spending, **International tourists arriving by air

Breakdown of GDP and employment created







Airlines	Airports, ANSPs, civil manufacturing	International tourists arriving by air
USD 213.6 million	USD 217.1 million	USD 517.6 million
81.5 thousand jobs	79.4 thousand jobs	202.2 thousand jobs

Source: Air Transport Action Group, 2026. Aviation Benefits Beyond Borders report based on data from Oxford Economics.
Note: Economic impacts are calculated using Oxford Economics' Aviation: Benefits Beyond Borders methodology with inputs sourced from publicly available statistics and recognized industry datasets wherever possible, with modelling-based estimates applied where direct data are not available. Estimates do not include domestic tourism spending, nor the wider catalytic benefits of aviation on trade, investment, productivity gains, and enhanced connectivity, among others.
Note: Average 2025 exchange rate: USD 1 = ETB 138.54

Air transport brings millions of people safely to global destinations

Around 6 million air passengers departed from Ethiopia in 2025, based on Origin-Destination(O-D) traffic, making Ethiopia the 67th largest air passenger market globally.

Air travel from Ethiopia in 2025, Origin-Destination (O-D)

6
million
passenger departures

GROWTH

179.7%
10-year growth

3.8%
year-on-year growth

RANK

67th
Global
▲ 2 since 2015

7th
in Africa
▲ 2 since 2015

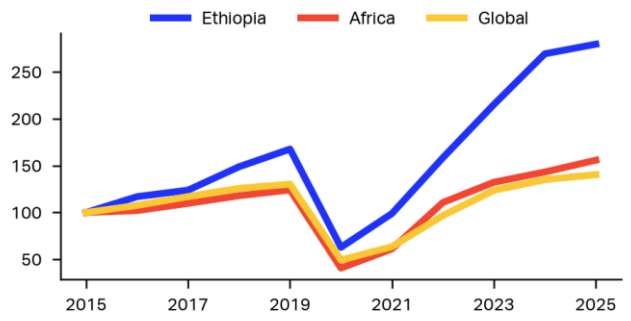
SHARE

0.1%
of global departures

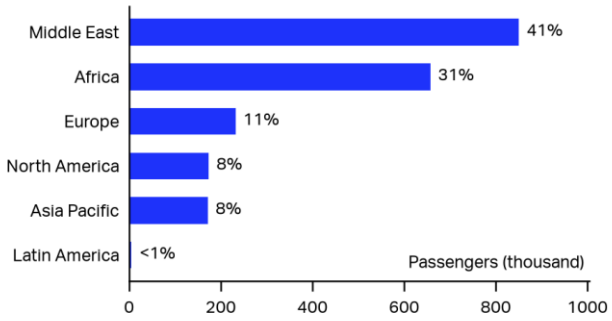
4.7%
of African departures

International: 2.1 million passenger departures, 94.9% 10Y growth, 9.8% YoY growth
Domestic: 3.9 million passenger departures, 265.4% 10Y growth, 0.8% YoY growth, % share of total market: 65.0%

Total passenger departures, O-D, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



International passenger departures by destination region, O-D, 2025



Top air travel markets Inbound & outbound	Top origin cities Inbound	Top destination cities Outbound
1. Saudi Arabia	1. Nairobi	1. Dubai
2. United Arab Emirates	2. Jeddah	2. Jeddah
3. United States	3. Dubai	3. Nairobi
4. Kenya	4. Washington	4. Guangzhou
5. China	5. Port Sudan	5. Washington

Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using IATA DDS data.
Note: O-D (origin-destination) departures measures passengers beginning their journey in Ethiopia, to their final destination, excluding transfer and transit passengers.
Top air travel markets based on total O-D passenger traffic between Ethiopia and other markets in 2025. Top outbound and inbound cities are based on round-trip passenger journeys.
IATA DDS data are derived from ticketing and sales transactions using IATA methodologies and estimates; therefore, results may not exactly match officially reported traffic statistics.

Air transport directly connects Ethiopia to 85 different countries

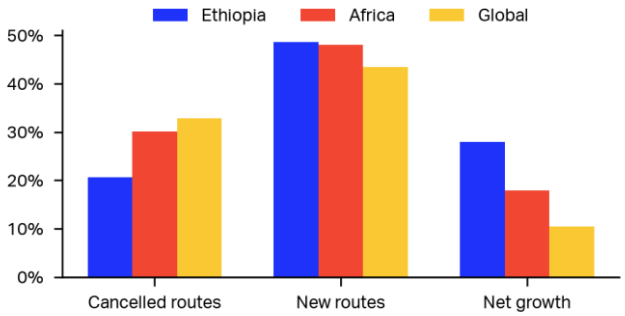
In 2025, there were 25 airports and 14 operating airlines in Ethiopia, providing a total of 192 regularly scheduled commercial passenger routes for Ethiopia, connecting to 85 countries with about 112 daily international departures.

Air Connectivity in Ethiopia

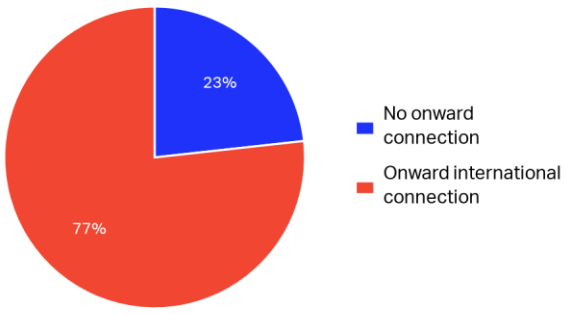


		Total		
		Available routes	Connected countries	Daily int. departures
2025	Total	192	85	112
	Global rank	52nd	11th	57th
	Africa rank	6th	1st	4th
2015	Total	150	64	73
	Global rank	62nd	17th	69th
	Africa rank	6th	1st	7th

Route network change, 2015 to 2025, % of 2015



Onward connections of international arrivals, 2025

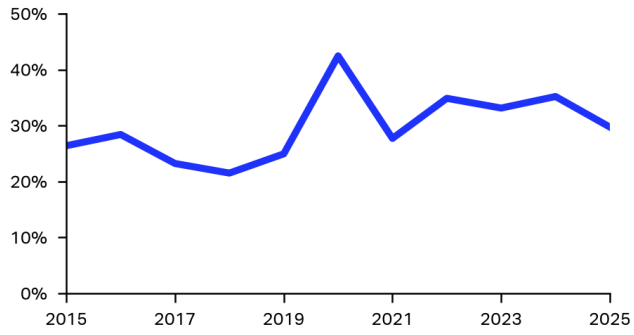


Source: IATA Sustainability & Economics using OAG & IATA DDS data.
Note: Airport, airline, and route counts include only those with regularly scheduled passenger services from Ethiopia. Airports with fewer than 1,000 regularly scheduled seats in 2025 are excluded.

Air Cargo provides Ethiopia timely and safe access to global markets

Although air transport accounted for an estimated 7.4% of Ethiopia's traded goods by weight, it carried 27.8% of their total value.
Ethiopia's airports handled around 282.5 thousand tonnes of air cargo in 2025, ranking Ethiopia as the world's 46th largest air cargo handler market and the 4th largest in Africa.

Ethiopian air cargo, value, % of total, 2015-2025



Ethiopian air cargo, share of trade, 2025

7.4%
of trade by weight

27.8%
of trade by value

Air cargo handled in Ethiopia, 2025

282.5
thousand tonnes
air cargo handled

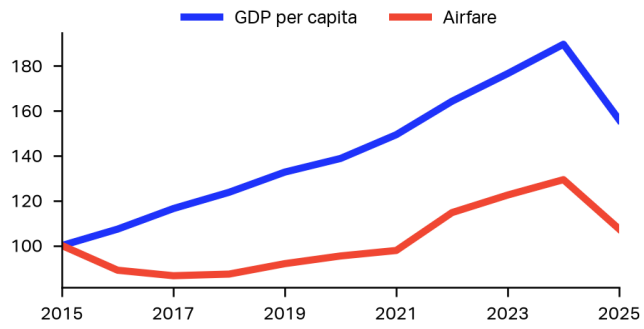
46th
Globally
4th in Africa

Source: Airports Council International (ACI) for air cargo handled, Global Trade Tracker (GTT) for imports and exports by air.
Note: Ethiopia's trade by air includes imports and exports . It is based on a sample of 50 countries that report their trade by means of transport in 2025, which represents around 40% of the total global goods trade.

International air travel from Ethiopia has become more affordable over the past decade

Ethiopia's nominal GDP per capita increased by 56.0%, while the average nominal air fare for an international ticket from Ethiopia increased by 7.3%, over the past decade. Therefore, international air travel has become more affordable for local residents over this time period.

Nominal GDP per capita & average international fare, Ethiopia, 2015-2025, index 2015=100



Source: IATA DDS, World Bank. Nominal GDP per capita and fare developments measured in USD terms.